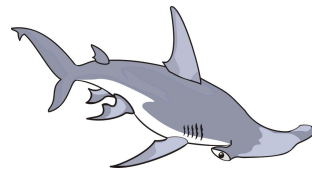


Defense of Sackets Harbor

1 Aug 03



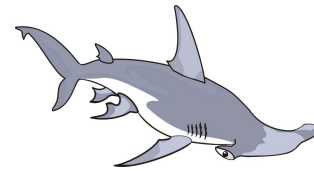
Agenda



- Stop 1 – Horse Island
- Stop 2 – Approach to Sackets Harbor
- Stop 3 – Assault Position
- Stop 4 – Trenchline
- Stop 5 – Basswood Cantonement
- Stop 6 – Ft Tompkins
- Stop 7 – Brewpub



Defense Doctrine



Purpose of the Defense

- Defeat an enemy attack
- Buy time
- Economize forces
- Develop conditions favorable for offensive operations
- Retaining decisive terrain or denying a vital area to the enemy
- Attritting or fixing the enemy as a prelude to offensive operations
- Surprise action by the enemy
- Increasing the enemy's vulnerability by forcing him to concentrate his forces.

FM 3-90, Jul 2001, p. 8-1

Defensive Patterns

- Mobile Defense
- Area Defense
- Retrograde

FM 3-0, Jun 2001, p. 8-4

Characteristics of the Defense

- Preparation
- Security
- Disruption
- Massing Effects
- Flexibility

FM 3-90, Jul 2001, p. 8-1

Mobile Defense

Focused on destruction of enemy forces

Maximum combat power in a striking force

Must have greater mobility than the attacker

Seize the initiative and transition to the offense

Area Defense

Focused on denying enemy terrain

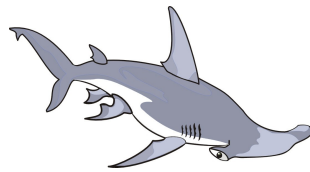
Destroy enemy force with interlocking fires

Normally has a covering force or security force

Local counterattacks employed to stop



Task Org



British

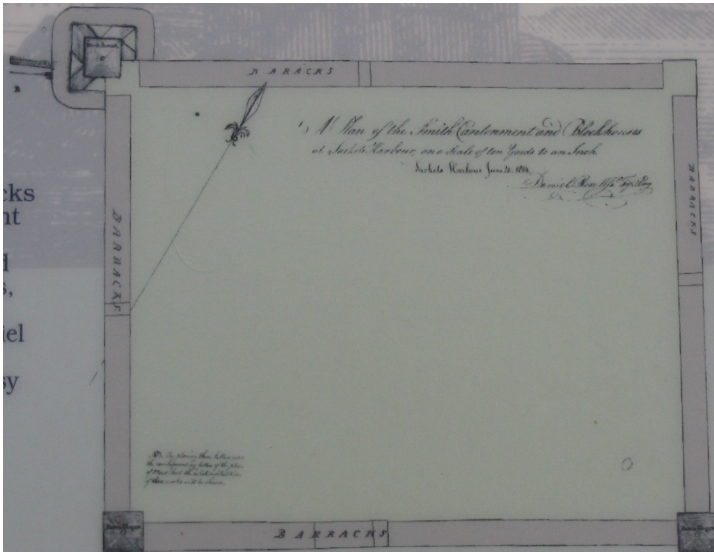
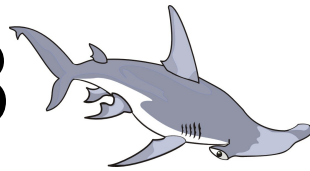
- 870 Soldiers (Regulars and militia)
- 37 Natives
- 2 Field Guns
- 6 ships (700 men and 98 cannons)

Americans

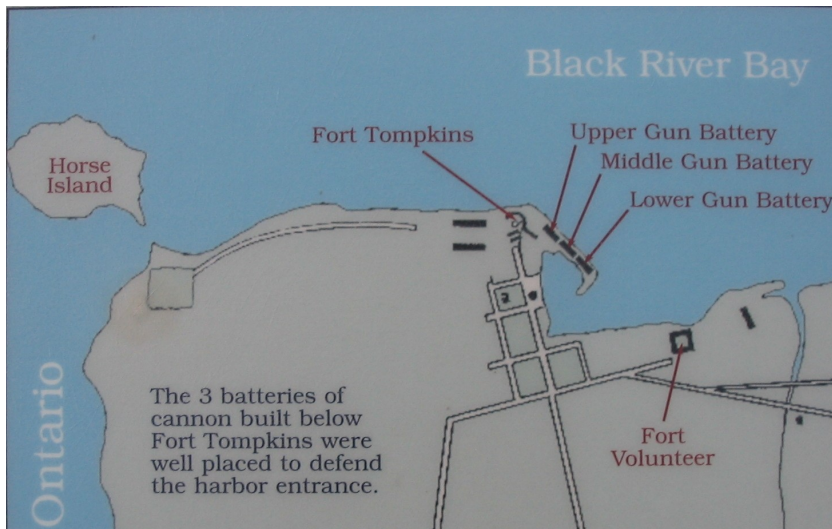
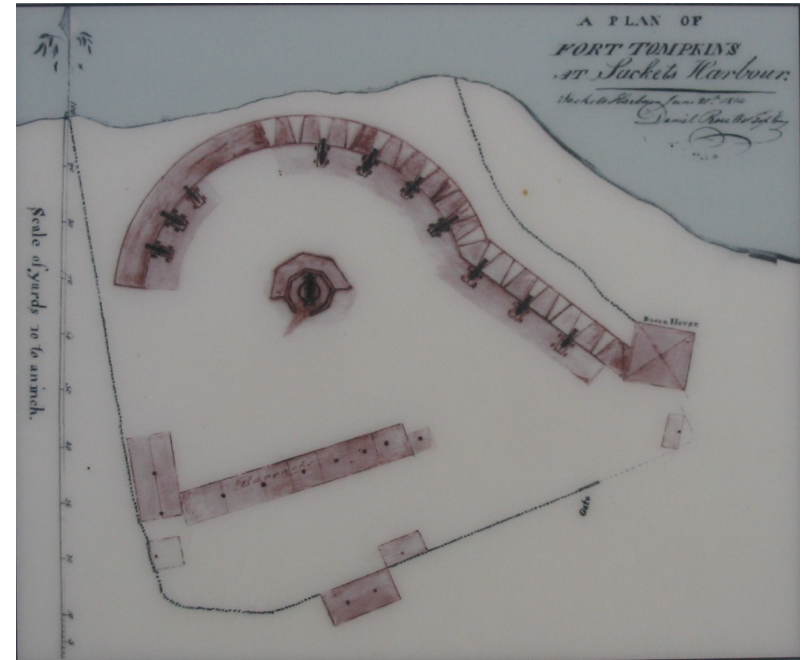
- 840 US Regulars
- 250 Elite Volunteers
- 550 Local Militia
- 3 ships and Shore Batteries (150 men and 13 cannons)



Sackets Harbor c1813

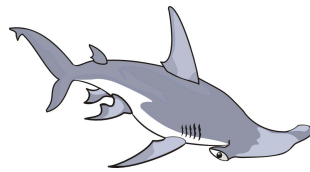


Left - Basswood Cantonment
Below Left - Static Defense Diagram
Below Right - Ft Tompkins





Stops 1 and 2 Notes



Defense Doctrinal Overview

Horse Island served as the initial landing site and staging area for the British. It was defended by militia from Albany commanded by BG Jacob Brown (Mexican War)

28 0001 Disembark boats

28 0330 Receive Fire from shore, use far side as landing area

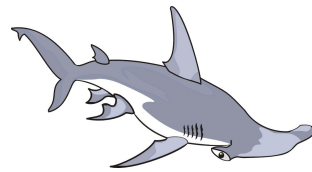
28 0400 All forces ashore, move toward land bridge OOM 100 Foot, 104 Foot, Canadiens, Royal Scots, King's 8th, Royal NF, GG LI, Indian Dept. Militia fall back to E SH/Ft Tompkins. They lose their guns here. No British gunners mean they can't use them either. (Move to Stop 2)

28 0500 2 Columns to attack (100 Foot, 104 Foot, Canadiens, Royal Scots, King's 8th, Royal NF on left, GG LI, Indian Dept on right to screen) **Task and Purpose for each.** Blockers go to var pos near what is now Broad St. Americans at this point know that the British are moving toward Ft Tompkins/SH to destroy their stores and ship building areas and begin to deploy forward to meet.

Of Note – There were 150 more feet of land to the lake that existed then, so the British had a good route.



Stops 3, 4, 5 Notes



Asslt Pos vs Atk Pos (Asslt Pos – Pos between LD and OBJ from which forces assault OBJ – Last covered and concealed pos before reaching OBJ. Atk Pos – Last pos occupied by assault echelon before LD.

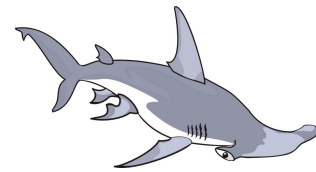
Hill to the left served as both Asslt Pos and fallback position. It was there that the British leaders reconned the OBJ and then moved out for the Asslt. (Move to Stop 4)

0600 British forces lined up and moved forward to the trenchline. They meet American regulars (9, 21, 23 US IN, 1st US Li Dragoons) and Albany Vols. They attack twice and the Americans repulse them. The Americans then fall back to Basswood and Ft T.

0730 British asslt Basswood Cantonement. Hand to hand and musket fire. Pass out slide 9. Fighting was mixed units and urban combat at its worst – single shot muskets and no covering artillery fire – Batteries would have torn the ships up. Americans burn Basswood Cantonement Area.



Stops 6, 7 Notes

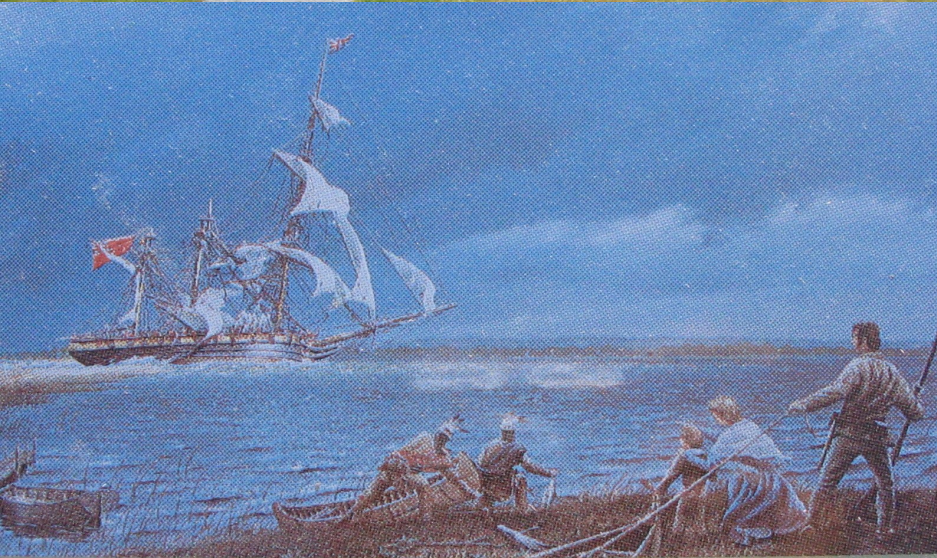


(Pay money to museum) British continue asslt and are met with grape and solid shot from 32 lb gun from Ft T. British fall back to asslt pos and send forward a messenger with a white flag. Americans refuse.

0900 British recon from GGLI and Indian Dept report reinforcements (actually militia that had fallen back and were moving to Ft Volunteer). British move back to boats and try to recover wounded. British then move to

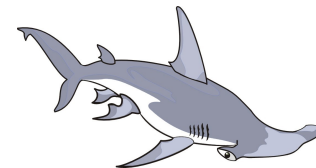
Aftermath - Due to the burning of the stores at Sackets Harbor, American shipbuilding on the lake is halted. This allows freedom of movement on the lake for British ships. The end result of this is the recapture of Ft Niagara and the sacking of Buffalo and Black Rock, NY.

Blockhouse/Shore Battery





Read Ahead



The War of 1812 - In a nutshell

The War of 1812, sometimes called the Second War of Independence or Mr Madison's War, is one of the forgotten wars of United States history. The war was declared as a result of long simmering disputes with Great Britain, including the continued impressments (Seizure of American Sailors for service in the British Navy – approximately 6000 had been seized by this time); an 1810 attack on the USS Chesapeake; British blockade strategies against American allies; and numerous territorial disagreements in the far northwest and in Canada.

The war started on June 12, 1812, with a very unsuccessful attempt by US forces to invade Canada, and ended with the stalwart defense of New Orleans against Great Britain. The war had few decisive actions and outcomes were often stalemates; the United States were halted in their tracks in Canada, and the British failed to capture any of their key targets, namely Baltimore, New Orleans and the Northeastern sea coast.

There were three major naval victories for the United States, in which American vessels and commanders proved superior to their British counterparts. The war was also dotted with numerous successful defenses along the eastern coastline of the US. Sackets Harbor played an important role throughout the war as a cannon and ship foundry, troop barracks, formidable coastal battery and transportation hub. The harbor was central to many operations against Canadian and British forces. The defense of Sackets Harbor on May 27th, 1813 was a major naval and land battle in the middle of the war.

The war lasted until a US-British peace treaty was ratified on February 16th, 1815.

The battle of Sackets Harbor

28 0001 May 13 – British Assault Force moves from ships by boat toward Sackets Harbor. Their plan is to use Horse Island as a landing area.

0330 – British assault force still aboard landing boats receives fire from militia on land and seeks cover behind Horse Island.

0400-0500 – All British landing forces beach on Horse Island and move toward the land bridge (since submerged by rising sea). OOM is 100th Regt of Foot, 104th Regt of Foot, Canadien Voltiquiers, Royal Scots, King's 8th Regt, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, Glengarry Light Infantry, and Indian Department (2 officers and 25-37 Braves) Total Force package equaled 870 men. The Landing Force Commander was COL Boynes.

0500-0600 – US Militia under the command of BG Jacob Brown fall back to E Sackets Harbor/Ft Tompkins.

"As I was intently watching the happy effects of our fire, to my astonishment my men arose from their cover, broke, and before I could realize the disgraceful scene, there was scarcely a man within several rods of where I stood." BG Jacob Brown

British forces organize into two columns with the 100th Regt of Foot, 104th Regt of Foot, Canadien Voltiquiers, Royal Scots, King's 8th Regt, Royal Newfoundland Regiment on the left moving by way of a bridge path along the lake toward Ft Tompkins (the path has since sunk into the lake) and the Glengarry Light Infantry, and Indian Department on the right. **The left column task and purpose could have been to destroy the shipyard at Sackets Harbor IOT prevent further interference by the American Navy. The right column task and purpose could have been block American reinforcements IOT allow left column (DE) to destroy the shipyard.** Militia continue to harass the movement by sniping during the entire movement.

0600-0730 – The British left column assaults the American line consisting of the 1st US Light Dragoons, 9th, 21st, and 23rd US Infantry Regts, and an element of Albany Volunteers commanded by a MAJ Herkiymer forward of Basswood Cantonement and Ft Tompkins. They are twice repulsed. After the second assault, the Americans fall back to Ft Tompkins and Ft Volunteer farther back into Sackets Harbor. (Ft Volunteer is on the west edge of Madison Barracks)

0730-0830 – The British continue with their assault into the Basswood Cantonement. There the Americans and British fight close quarters combat and sometimes hand to hand within the cantonment walls. (See picture below) During this fighting, a Navy officer located aboard the USS Fair American in Black River Bay sees the fighting and launches a signal flare that orders American forces in the Basswood Cantonement area to set fire it. This move is intended to deny the British raiding party the supplies stored in the warehouses of the Basswood Cantonement.

While the British continue forward after the American withdrawal, Americans in Ft Tompkins engage them with musket and more importantly cannon fire (Grape Shot) from the one swivel gun located within the fort. The British withdraw behind a hill to the south for cover and send a messenger with a white flag demanding surrender. The Americans in Ft Tompkins refuse.

0800-0900 – Having suffered heavy casualties, and afraid that American reinforcements were approaching (the Indian Department and Glengarry LI were sending reports of reinforcements approaching), the British landing force returned to their boats and then to the landing ships. The British sent a flag of truce to come ashore to retrieve their wounded and dead, but the Americans on the ground assured the British by way of a messenger that they would take care of the British dead and wounded.